[*English*]

Restructuring of NTC and NJMC

1549. DR. C. SILVERA:
SHRI V.SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the National Textile Corporation, National Jute Manufacturers' Corporation and other segments of the textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aim for such restructuring of these organisations;

(d) whether the restructuring will affect the interest of workers of these organisations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT (a) to (c). Various alternatives are under consideration of the Government as a long term solution to curtail down heavy losses incurred by National Textile Corporation, British India Corporation and National Jute Manufacturers' Corporation and to revitalise them.

(d) and (e). Since no decision has been taken regarding the restructuring of NTC, BIC and NJMC, it would be pre-mature to indicate as to whether they would affect the interests of the workers and in any case which will be fully protected.

Assistance to Silk Weavers.

1550. DR. C. SILVERA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide assistance to silk weavers and reelers facing the on slaught of synthetic fibres and power looms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage exports of silk;

(d) if so, the details of programme drawn up for the purpose and target fixed for 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Government of India implements several schemes for assisting handloom weavers, including silk handloom weavers. These schemes include Market Development Assistance Workshed-cum-Housing, Training and Modernisation, Thrift Fund Scheme etc. For reelers, Central Silk Board's on going programme for assistance includes assistance to reelers for establishing reeling units in new and traditional areas, subsidy for establishing multiend reeling units, incentives for biveltine cocoon reelers and also training in reelings.

(c) and (d). Government has all along been encouraging export of silk products. The target for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 550 crores. For the purpose of acheiving the target, the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council has been undertaking export promotion activity which includes participation in International Fairs. The Council also undertakes sales-cum-study tours to tap new markets. The Council also launched the first International Silk Fair(Resham India) in India In October, 1991, where many importers participated.

Purchase of Inferior Quality of Rubber by STC.

1551. PROF K.V. THOMAS: Will the

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints against the State Trading Corporation for purchasing inferior quality of rubber;

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter;

(c) whether tyre manufacturing companies have lodged any complaints regarding inferior quality of rubber supplied to them by STC and have asked for compensation;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(e) whether RMA IV grade rubber will now be purchased by STC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). There has been a complaint regarding purchase of RMA-5 grade of natural rubber not conforming to the quality specifications laid down in the matter and instructions have been given to procure natural rubber under strict quality specifications.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The STC and Rubber Board are sorting out the matter.

(e) Yes, Sir. The STC has since been instructed to purchase RMA-4 grade of natural rubber from the domestic market.

Indo-Pak Talks on Problems in Border Areas.

1552. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian military delegation during recent visit to Pakistan held talks with their counterparts on the problems being faced in the border areas;

(b) if so, the precise subjects considered at the talks and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for peace in the border areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):(a) and (b). A Defence delegation visited Pakistan from the 24th to 27th September, 1991. During the talks, the situation along the Line of Control/International Border was reviewed, and measures to carry the Confidence Building process further were discussed. Agreements were also reached in principle on:

(i) Re-activation of the existing telephone lines between Baramula-Murree and Rajouri-Jhelum, for use by the concerned Sector Commanders whenever necessary.

(ii) Establishment of communication links between the Air Forces and Navies of the two countries.

(iii) Enhancing interaction and exchanges, including through participation in seminars organized by respective Institutes of Strategic Studies, exchange of sports teams etc.

(c) The Government of India constantly endeavour to maintain a dialogue with Pakistan in order to de-escalate the situation on the border. An agreement was also reached between the Indian and Pak DGMOs to prevent use of artillery, mortar and rocket fire